Methodist Peace Courier

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RESOLUTIONS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

Helpful guidance for Methodists will be found in this series of resolutions adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Board of World Peace in Cleveland, Ohio, November 25-26, 1957. These pronouncements supplement General Conference action on issues of peace, war, and international relations with statements geared to the present situation.

While no one would claim them to be final or definitive in character, they constitute pertinent insights which might well be carefully perused both by annual conference boards of peace and by local church commissions on Christian social relations. In this spirit we commend them to you.

Recognition of their weight and substance made it timely and suitable for them to constitute the major portion of the first issue of the COURIER *in 1958.*

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THE MIDDLE EAST

We rejoice in the positive actions of the United Nations in curbing violence in the Middle East. We commend Britain, France, and Israel for their acceptance of the authority of the General Assembly and note with satisfaction the influence of Protestant bodies in Britain and France concerning this issue. However, the relative calm which now prevails should not be considered evidence of a durable peace but only an opportunity to work hard for permanent solutions to serious irritations, injustices, and economic problems.

We favor an International Straits Commission under the United Nations which would control the operation of such vital waterways as the Dardanelles, the Suez Canal, and the Panama Canal for the welfare of all nations.

We favor a Middle East Development Agency, organized within the framework of the United Nations, which would develop creatively on a regional basis the valleys of the Jordan, the Nile, the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers. Such a step would help to provide arable land for resettling refugees, raise the living standards of millions, and help create an atmosphere of international cooperation for the common good. "Our policy has concerned itself too much with kings and oil, too little with people and water."

Noting the effective service now being rendered by the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East, we recommend the establishment of a permanent UN police force, composed of individual volunteers wearing the UN uniform with a UN commander under the Secretary-General. This force should be supplemented by larger contingents committed to the organization by member states. This force should have the right to go anywhere under the authority of the Security Council or the General Assembly. It would be especially valuable for the patrolling of inflamed border areas and the supervision of plebescites.

The United States can accomplish more for peace and democracy in the Middle East by sponsoring bold solutions to its economic and social problems under the UN than by sending arms to unstable or feudalistic governments. There is special urgency to the establishment of a Middle East Development Agency and an International Straits Commission. A permanent United Nations police force is eminently desirable.

POLITICAL FREEDOM

We rejoice that in recent months Ghana and Malaya have become independent nations and members of the United Nations. We deplore the continued strife in Algeria and believe that France must grant this area a larger measure of freedom. In their treatment of dependent areas colonial powers should note the advantages of a commonwealth pattern in which self-government is combined with voluntary economic cooperation and political consultation.

The advent of freedom frequently means grave responsibility for the maintenance of order, the raising of standards of living, the control of nationalistic fervor, and the establishment of civil liberties. The final goal of a people is not independence but interdependence, international cooperation and the spirit of unity through the United Nations.

Powers with non-self-governing territories should establish timetables for their advancement toward self-government, in order that the inhabitants may be encouraged and violence avoided.

The United States has certain responsibilities in the area of political freedom: (1) the granting of economic assistance to underdeveloped nations such as Libya which have recently achieved independence; (2) the giving of assistance to colonial powers which may experience economic hardships in granting freedom to colonies; and (3) the granting of political representation to the people of Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and certain Pacific islands under our control.

In recent years a new type of colonialism has come to pass, the dominance of the total life of a people by a powerful neighbor. We deplore the brutal way in which the freedom movement in Hungary was crushed; we commend the United Nations for its objective investigation of the facts and its condemnation of the aggression of the Soviet Union.

With deep interest we note that in recent years desirable changes in the direction of personal and national freedom have taken place in Yugoslavia and Poland. In Russia fewer people suffer in labor camps. On the contrary, in the Union of South Africa popular participation in government is diminishing.

We declare our faith in self-government and the participation in political processes by all persons within a nation. Guided by principles of the United Nations, all

nations still controlling dependent areas should hasten to take steps toward the self-government of these areas.

CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

We note with much satisfaction that in recent years the barriers to travel between Communist and non-Communist countries have been lowered. Especially pleasing to us have been the visits of churchmen to Russia and from Russia to other countries. We encourage Methodists to take advantage of the opportunities which now exist to visit the Soviet Union.

We hope that American universities will increasingly be able and willing to send students to and receive students from Communist nations. We wish that the Department of State might expand its program of educational and cultural exchange so as to include countries with Communist governments.

Because of our belief in the freedom of the press and the desirability of unceasingly searching for the truth, we request our government to adopt a policy which would permit correspondents to move both ways between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Since the Delaware Conference of 1942, the churches of the United States have expressed keen interest in the establishment of human rights. The recommendation of the Cleveland Conference of 1945 helped delegates at San Francisco to think favorably of a permanent Commission on Human Rights in the United Nations.

The United Nations has exalted human rights in many ways and in many places. The United States has taken many good positions concerning human rights both in the United Nations and in domestic legislation. However, our record concerning the ratification of covenants on human rights is not clear.

In the General Assembly of 1948 the U. S. delegation voted for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but the Conventions on Genocide and the Political Rights of Women have never reached the floor of the Senate. Our government has informed the Commission on Human Rights that we shall not ratify a general covenant on human rights, no matter what form it takes. Involved in this inaction of our government is the fear of some senators that we shall lose some of our freedom through international covenants or that some of our social customs will stand condemned.

We believe that the method provided by the Constitution of the United States for making international treaties is adequate and requires no further limitations such as proposed in the Bricker Amendment.

Although we recognize that laws and covenants are ineffective unless based upon moral principles accepted by a majority of the people to whom they apply, nevertheless we believe that the United States government should abandon its position that no human rights covenants will be presented to the Senate for adoption. All covenants on human rights perfected and adopted by the United Nations should be considered on their merits by the Senate. The Conventions on Genocide, the Political Rights of Women, and Slavery exalt and extend standards long held by Christians and Americans.

WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

All of the well-developed nations have a responsibility toward the newly developing countries. As long as the difference in level of development is large, this responsibility will continue. Christian citizens in the United States especially must remember the words of Jesus, "Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required," and the saying of John, "If any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

The newly developing countries need both technical assistance and capital funds. Both should be provided them. The Development Loan Fund of $300,000,000 for fiscal 1958 and $625,000,000 for fiscal 1959, recently established by Congress, and the proposed expansion of the technical assistance program in the United Nations are steps in the right direction.

The Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED) would provide a good flexible framework for the transmission of capital sums in adequate amounts to deserving nations and merits support by the United States. Adequate capital assistance would be obtained if the well-developed nations would devote 1% of their national incomes to such a fund.

Increasingly the newly developing countries prefer to have economic assistance transmitted to them by United Nations agencies, so that they will not feel politically obligated to any one nation or bloc. The well-developed nations should recognize the merits of this wish and be willing to make the United Nations the channel of the bulk of their aid.

At the present time India is faced with special economic difficulties. As it seeks to advance standards of living by democratic processes through a five-year plan, it faces a serious shortage of capital funds. If it does not obtain assistance from the United States or the World Bank, that great nation may curtail its democracy in order to feed and house its people.

Assistance to other nations does not always take the form of technical assistance or loans. Nations prefer to sell and buy; they view tariff walls with alarm and frustration. Since the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act expires in 1958, we call upon Congress to extend it for at least five years and to ratify the agreement for the establishment of the Organization for Trade Cooperation. If we fail to approve these measures, the United States will be severely and rightly condemned by the world for its economic isolationism.

Recalling the tendency of the first session of the 85th Congress to reduce foreign economic aid, we call upon ministers and commissions on Christian social relations to present in the early months of 1958 to our churches the responsibility of the United States for world economic development. We suggest that every churchman indicate to his neighbor and his congressman his willingness to be taxed for such a program.

There is a tendency in many countries for the increase of population to nullify the increases in food supply and housing facilities. We recognize that this population increase is partly due to the beneficent health programs which have reduced the death rate. Asian governments have indicated keen awareness of this problem by seeking to limit the size of families. The General Conference of 1956 wisely said, "We believe that planned parenthood practiced in Christian conscience, may fulfill rather than violate the will of God."

We believe that the United States should give strong leadership to programs of world economic develop

nent. Our technical and capital assistance should be enerous and adequate. It should be largely channeled hrough United Nations agencies, such as SUNFED, JNICEF, and the Technical Assistance Board. It should e linked to a continuation of reciprocal trade agreeents and the ratification of the Organization for Trade ooperation.

DISARMAMENT AND MILITARY SERVICE

In the matter of disarmament we are disappointed but ot discouraged. Our hearts become heavy whenever we ontemplate the destruction, suffering, and death which odern weapons could inflict upon God's children. We ejoice in the concern of our President for disarmament, he leadership of Mr. Stassen in the London negotiations, nd the narrowing of the gap between the proposals of the ast and the West. We express hope that the U.S.S.R. will hange its announced policy of remaining out of the UN ommission on Disarmament and will continue to cooperate n the work of the Commission.

The most important contribution which the church can nake to disarmament at the present time is to create such n enlightened and resilient public opinion in support of isarmament that political leaders working for it will feel heir views upheld. Churchmen especially must not give vay to despair or cynicism but display that faith, persistnce, and courage which characterize a disciple of Christ n any age.

In recent months many scientists and theologians have ecome seriously concerned with problems of man-made adiation in general and the tests of atomic weapons in paricular. Many geneticists speak gravely of the birthrights f future generations. We urge churchmen to heed the findngs of the international committee of scientists created by he United Nations to study and report upon the nature nd dangers of atomic radiation.

Recently the Central Committee of the World Council f Churches asserted that atomic tests should cease under nternational agreement, but that if such agreement cannot e obtained, Christians should urge their governments to ake a risk for the sake of human welfare and world peace y foregoing tests for a period, in the hope that others will do the same and a new confidence be born.

The peace for which we work must include positive feaures as well as disarmament. As the nations disarm, there must be increased emphasis upon self-determination for all peoples, world economic development, and the acquisiion of security by nations large and small through the authority of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, and a police force under the United Nations.

In this International Geophysical Year the recent achievements of Russian scientists in sending satellites into the stratosphere deserve congratulations. Capable scientists exist in every nation and there is no hope of any one naion maintaining a monopoly on knowledge. Such developments give greater urgency to disarmament under the United Nations and the cooperation of the East and West in programs of human betterment.

We reaffirm the oft-stated position of General Conferences that compulsory peacetime military training is contrary to the best American traditions and disregards the Christian hope for security through positive policies. There is the practical consideration that because of the reduction of military personnel by several of the great powers, the possibility of first steps toward disarmament before 1959, and technological developments in weapons which need fewer men to use them, the nation will be able to obtain all the men needed for the armed services through voluntary enlistments.

We commend our government for its persistent effort to achieve universal disarmament through the United Nations. We believe that a disarmed world is God's will for mankind and that its fulfillment in our century requires strenuous action by Christian citizens. We appeal to the United States to give bold leadership looking toward the universal abolition of peacetime conscription and atomic tests by or through the United Nations.

IMMIGRATION

Because our immigration policy should reflect traditional American hospitality toward those wishing new national homes and should embody the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, fundamental changes should be made in the McCarran-Walter Act (Public Law 414). It discriminates grossly against Asians, arbitrarily excludes many persons for trivial reasons, allows naturalized citizens to be deported after many years of residence in this country, compels all aliens to register and report changes of address on pain of deportation, and provides for the fingerprinting of nearly all persons applying for visas to the United States.

We rejoice that in 1957 a bill was passed (P.L. 85-316) modifying certain provisions of the Act. Provision has been made for uniting families, and the Department of State is authorized to waive the requirement of finger printing.

We recommend that the national origins quota system should be abandoned in favor of categories such as the following: (1) those who would contribute technical or professional skills, (2) victims of racial, religious or political persecution, and (3) those whose admission would help solve social or economic problems in their native lands. Such an arrangement, making our immigration policy more flexible and humane, would have enabled us to give speedy admission to Hungarian refugees without special Congressional legislation.

The McCarran-Walter Act should be revised so as to make American immigration legislation reflect Christian charity, American justice, and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

ANTARCTICA, THE HIGH SEAS, AND OUTER SPACE

"We urge the General Assembly to declare the title of the international community and to establish appropriate administrative arrangements:

(1) With respect to Antarctica, at the request of or with the consent of states having claim to such territories.

(2) With respect to the bed of the high seas beyond the continental shelf, and

(3) With respect to outer space, which is outside the jurisdiction of any state."

(From "Strengthening the United Nations," a report of the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace)

". . . It is an act of faith to assert the conviction that man was not put upon this earth and endowed with reason by his Creator, merely in order that he should ultimately destroy himself in senseless, fratricidal conflict. This affirmation of confidence in man's survival implies . . . more than a reliance upon the existence of a Divine purpose. It implies a belief in man's reason, in his sense of justice and in the innate preponderance in human nature of the creative, the cooperative and fraternal impulses, as against those drives which are competitively acquisitive, aggressive and ultimately suicidal. . . . My belief that there *is* a future is not a belief that man *will* necessarily survive. . . . It is a conviction that man *can* survive if he makes proper use of the endowment given to him by his Maker."

—James P. Warburg

AFFAIRS AFAR

Civic Sisters

TOKYO—Osaka and San Francisco became "sister" cities recently under the Town Affiliation program, which seeks to promote cultural exchange between the peoples of cities in different countries. Other cities which are bound in a similar alliance of friendship are Nagasaki and St. Paul, Minnesota; Yokohama and San Diego, California; and Mishima and Pasadena, California.

Giving Sight to the Blind

TAIWAN—This country is one of the chief beneficiaries of the treatment programs for trachoma and related eye diseases conducted by UNICEF and WHO in nine countries. More than half the population is affected with trachoma and 18% more with its precursor, conjunctivitis.

Lawyer Urges World Law

PARIS—"The American Bar Association is moving more and more toward support of the United Nations and the idea that the greatest need of the world community is to fill the gap in the legal structure of civilization—that is, the need to settle disputes among nations by rule of law rather than by war," said Mr. Charles S. Rhyne, new president of the American Bar Association in a speech here recently. "The United Nations is the best growing point toward ordered freedom in a disordered world."

COURIER FORECAST

Issues before Congress, Economic Aid and Technical Assistance, Trade and Tariffs, and ***Person-to-Person Diplomacy—Cultural Exchange*** will be featured topics in early 1958 issues of the COURIER. A fact-packed presentation of each subject, with lists of additional resources of books, pamphlets, magazine articles, and filmstrips, and suggestions for local church programming and action will make these numbers of the COURIER especially valuable for Christian social relations commissions and world peace committees.

MORE HELPS FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

Soon to be released is a *filmstrip* entitled "A New Kind of Building" on the organization and work of the local church commission on Christian social relations. This has been produced by the Television, Radio and Film Commission for the three social relations boards. The price is not yet determined.

A *handbook* on the local Christian social relations commission is also in process. Written by a capable young pastor whose church has a lively and vital commission at work, this handbook will give details of organization and program, lift up salient issues, and contain a helpful bibliography on temperance, peace, and social and economic relations.

A *turnover chart* presenting pictorially the main concerns and issues confronting a commission on Christian social relations in the local church is also promised for early 1958.

Available now from The Methodist Publishing House and to appear in the 1958 Methodist Publishing House catalog, is the new Quarterly Conference Report for the Commission on Christian Social Relations. This official report form gives status to this commission and establishes it more firmly as a reporting group to Quarterly Conference.

REPORT FROM N. C. C. ASSEMBLY

Persons and issues vied for the center of attention at t Triennial General Assembly of the National Council Churches in St. Louis in early December.

For the Division of Life and Work, Bishop G. Broml Oxnam was elected as the new chairman, succeeding M Douglas Horton. Herman Will of our staff was elected secr tary of the Denominational Staff Council of this Division.

The Division presented several important resolutions the Assembly for its adoption. In the field of peace, the mo significant of these, and by far the most debated, was one "Some Hopes and Concerns of the Churches in the Nuclea Space Age." Also of interest were resolutions on intern tional aid and trade and concerning refugees.

After careful consideration of the public attitude towa economic aid and technical assistance, the Denomination Staff Council outlined a program to bring this matt squarely before the public in all parts of the country ear in the coming session of Congress.

Most important Council-sponsored event of the near fu ture will be a Convocation on International Relations Cleveland, November 18-21, 1958.

CONCERNING CONFERENCES AND CONFERENCE CONCERNS

The Wisconsin Conference distributed 3,000 reprints Norman Cousin's editorial from the *Saturday Revie* "Checklist of Enemies." This active world peace boa has been in correspondence with their new senator, Wi liam Proxmire, concerning a suggestion that he establish a "advisory peace committee" for guidance on issues involv ing world peace.

From "Checklist of Enemies" by Norman Cousins

"The Enemy is not solely an atomic-muscled totalitaria power with a world ideology.

The enemy is many people. He is a man whose only con cern about the world is that it stay in one piece during hi own lifetime . . .

The enemy is a man who not only believes in his ow helplessness but actually worships it . . .

The enemy is a man who has a total willingness to dele gate his worries about the world to officialdom . . .

The enemy is any man in the pulpit who . . . encourage his congregation to believe that the main purpose of th church . . . is to provide social respectability for its mem bers . . . He is a dispenser of balm rather than an awakene of conscience. He is preoccupied with the need to provid personal peace of mind rather than to create a blazing sens of restlessness to set things right . . ."

THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR—
and in your local music stor

In the October COURIER we mentioned a new song, "L There Be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin With Me," whic was becoming increasingly popular in Methodist circle One of our COURIER readers has passed on to us a card sh received from the author of the song, Sy Miller: "Woul you be kind enough to let your METHODIST PEACE COURIE know of the news of the 'Let There Be Peace on Earth singing project—how it can be obtained locally throug music stores because of the snowballing of the project?

"We are receiving hundreds of letters from Methodis groups requesting this information—and we hope they wi all join us in singing 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' as community singing project."

A Methodist church in Des Moines used the words of this song on its church bulletin cover for December 8, the Sunday nearest Human Rights Day.